Development of Telecom Service in North-East Region and Sikkim

1262. SHRI PRAFUL GORADIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give priority for development of telecom services in North-East and Sikkim.

(b) whether Government have any special plan of the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A Perspective Plan for Telecommunication Services in North-East Region and Sikkim (1997-2007) has been drawn up. It consists of addition of new telephone connections of 15.62 lakh lines for North-East and Assam and 0.727 lakh lines for Sikkim during the period 1997-2007. Achievement during last two year, development plans for next three years and likely status as on 31-3-2002 are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 188, Annexure No. 35]

Installation of Telephone Connections in Various Areas of Ghaziabad

1263. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of residence of Sector 17, Vasundhara, Vishal Bhavan, Shyam Park, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (U.P.) who have registered their name for the allotment of telephone connection during the year 1997 have not been provided with telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not installing the telephone connections while C.B. numbers have already been issued;

(d) if so, by when the said telephones would be installed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Some O.Bs. issued for new telephone connections registered after the year 1997 are pending as detailed below:—

Area Sector 17 Vasundhara	Registration Jan/Feb' 99	Pending OBs Six (6)	Reasons Area being technically not feasible for want
Vishal Bhawan Shyam Park, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad	May/June' 98	Three (3)	of underground cable pair.

(d) Telephone connections will be provided by the end of Jan. 2000.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Re-Opening of VPTs in Bihar Sharif Sub-Division Bihar

1264. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department grants permission to open VPT after thorough examination of the applications;

(b) if so, the details of VPTs opened in the month of June, 1999 under Bihar Sharif Sub-Division, Bihar;

(c) whether some of the VPTs were ordered to be closed after their opening, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the issues that led to their closure have been identified;

(e) whether the responsible officers have also been identified; and

(f) if so, the action Government propose to take to reopen the VPT and to punish the guilty officers?